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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

# AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR AUGUST 1990 — OCTOBER 1990

## Area Job Growth Now Only 0.1% Over the Year

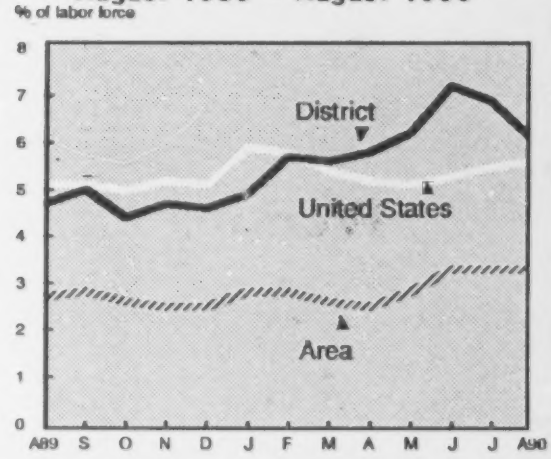
### D.C. Employment Drops To 6.1%

## Labor Force

During August, unemployment declined in the District from 6.9 percent of the labor force to 6.1 percent. In the suburbs, the rate increased from 2.7 percent to 2.8 percent and in the entire Metropolitan Area, the rate remained unchanged at 3.3 percent.

The unadjusted August rate for all civilian workers in the United States was 5.1 percent, down from July's 5.5 percent. August represents the seventh consecutive month that the District's rate has been higher than that for the nation.

**Unemployment Rates**
**August 1989 - August 1990**




## *The District*

The District's August labor force statistics reflect a rather common pattern for the month, except the fall in the unemployment rate was larger than usual. For the past 12 years, the unemployment rate between July and August has dropped ten times and increased only twice. However, this year's decline of eight-tenths of a percentage point was significantly larger than the 0.3 long-term average for the month. Thus, the August decline appears to be more than just seasonal.

During the month, payroll employment declined by 3,700 and unemployment declined by 3,000. Since both employment and unemployment declined, the size of the labor force shrunk by 6,700. This movement reflects, to a large degree, the completion of the District's Summer Youth Employment Program which employed over 10,000 young workers during July and early August. These workers and other temporary summer employees left their jobs and the labor force to prepare for the return to the classroom.

Of the 18,100 people remaining on the August

*Continued on page 3*

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

# AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR AUGUST 1990 OCTOBER 1990

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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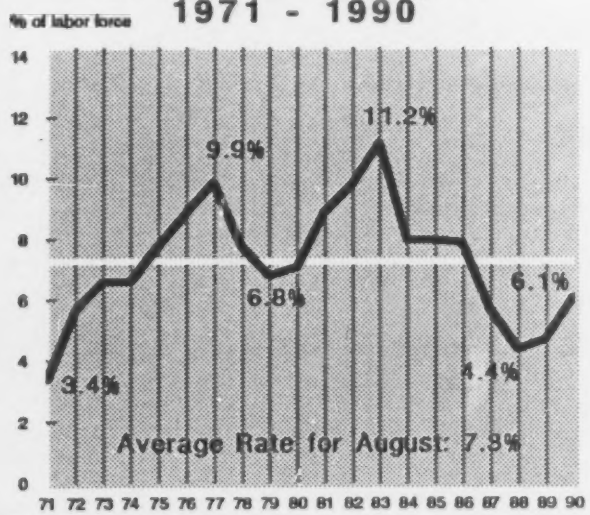
jobless roster, supporting data indicate that nearly half were recent entrants to the labor market while about four of every ten had lost their jobs. The remainder were job leavers.

The significant statistics are the over-the-year changes. Since August of last year, the number of residents on payrolls declined by 21,100. At the same time, the unemployment rolls increased by 3,100 jobless workers. The difference between the larger decline in employment and the smaller increase in unemployment means that over the year the District's labor supply shrunk by 18,000, or nearly 6 percent. This decrease in the labor force probably indicates that many residents have given up looking for a job and some may have relocated to areas outside the City. Information is unavailable to estimate the levels of each, but the change probably represents a combination of both discouragement and relocation.

For the first eight months of 1990, the District's unemployment rate has averaged about 6.1 percent, up from last year's annual average of 5.0 percent, but significantly below the ten year annual average of 8.3 percent.

**District Unemployment Rates In the Month of August 1971 - 1990**




# The Area & Suburbs

In the suburbs, the August labor force movements were bascially similar to the seasonal movements recorded in the District. Both the suburban labor force and employment declined, however, unlike in the District, the level of unemployment increased over the month. The result was a one-tenth of a percentage point increase in the suburban unemployment rate to 2.8 percent of the labor force.

Over the year, the suburban unemployment rate increased a significant six-tenths of a percentage point. This increase resulted from a very small expansion in the suburban labor force of only 1,600 new workers and a larger 10,600-person decrease in jobholders. These two changes combined to produce a 12,300-person increase in the jobless pool.

August changes at the District and suburban levels resulted in the Area's unemployment rate remaining unchanged from July at 3.3 percent.

Continued on page 4

**Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County**

| | Aug.a/ 1990 | Julyb/ 1990 | Aug 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|
| District of Columbia | 6.1 | 6.9 | 4.7 |
| Frederick County | 4.9 | 4.3 | 3.4 |
| Calvert County | 4.3 | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| Prince Georges Cty. | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.2 |
| Alexandria City | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| Charles County | 3.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 |
| Stafford County | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.6 |
| Montgomery County | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| Arlington County | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.7 |
| Prince William Cty. | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Manassas City | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Fairfax County | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.5 |
| Manassas Park City | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| Fairfax City | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Falls Church City | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Loudoun County | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.3 |

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

SOURCE. The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

**The unemployment rate in the Washington Area has now been above three percent for three consecutive months. This is the first time that this has occurred since 1987.**

Over the year, (August 1989-August 1990), the number of Area residents with jobs decreased by 31,700, or 1.4 percent. This decrease in jobholding resulted in a 16,400-person shrinkage in the labor force and a 15,400-person expansion in joblessness. All of the decrease in the Area labor supply is traceable to the declines in the District, while 80 percent of the increase in the level of unemployment can be traced to the suburbs.

**Most of the increase in the Area level of unemployment has occurred since April and has been concentrated in the suburbs** (see chart). Over the past four months, Area unemployment has risen from 55,900 to 73,300, an increase of 17,400, or 31 percent. Unemployed suburbanites accounted for 16,700 of the increase, while only 700 have been District residents. Thus, during the past four months, the drop in Area job growth has begun to substantially impact the jobless rolls in the suburbs, despite the relatively low unemployment rates.

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

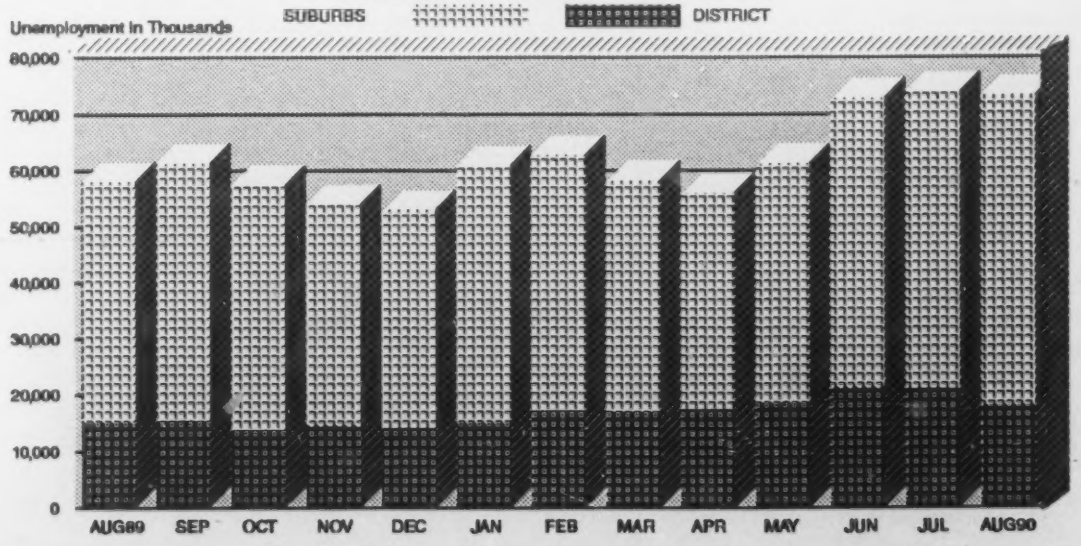
The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 6,311 in August 1990 down 4,634 claimants from July. In August, 52 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales accounted for 26 percent of the total claimants. Professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 25 percent and service workers 23 percent of the total.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 9.4 weeks for all claimants in August. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 9.2 weeks to 9.7 weeks. For females, the duration also increased from 8.5 weeks to 9.1 weeks. In August 1989, the average duration for males was 10.0 weeks and for females 9.9 weeks.

**Labor Force Distribution**
**Washington Metropolitan Area**
**August 1990 & August 1989**
(percent)

| | Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **AUGUST 1990** | |
| Area | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| District | 13.3 | 12.9 | 24.7 |
| Suburbs | 86.7 | 87.1 | 75.3 |
| | | **AUGUST 1989** | |
| Area | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| District | 14.0 | 13.7 | 25.9 |
| Suburbs | 86.0 | 86.3 | 74.1 |

**Levels of Unemployment**
**The Washington Area**
**August 1989 - August 1990**



**Employment Status for the Civilian Population**
**District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA**
**August 1990[a/]**

| | Aug.[b/] 1990 | July[c/] 1990 | Aug.[d/] 1989 | July[d/] 1989 | Net Change From July 1990 | Net Change From Aug. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Washington, D.C.** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 297,900 | 304,600 | 315,900 | 318,100 | -6,700 | -18,000 |
| Total Employed | 279,800 | 283,500 | 300,900 | 301,500 | -3,700 | -21,100 |
| Total Unemployed | 18,100 | 21,100 | 15,000 | 16,600 | -3,000 | 3,100 |
| Unemployment Rate[e/] | 6.1 | 6.9 | 4.7 | 5.2 | -0.8 | 1.4 |
| **Suburban Ring** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,938,000 | 1,954,900 | 1,936,400 | 1,964,300 | -16,900 | 1,600 |
| Total Employed | 1,882,900 | 1,902,200 | 1,893,500 | 1,921,600 | -19,300 | -10,600 |
| Total Unemployed | 55,200 | 52,800 | 42,900 | 42,700 | 2,400 | 12,300 |
| Unemployment Rate[e/] | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| **Washington, D.C. MSA** | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 2,235,900 | 2,259,500 | 2,252,300 | 2,282,400 | -23,600 | -16,400 |
| Total Employed | 2,162,700 | 2,185,700 | 2,194,400 | 2,223,100 | -23,000 | -31,700 |
| Total Unemployed | 73,300 | 73,900 | 57,900 | 59,300 | -600 | 15,400 |
| Unemployment Rate[e/] | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | — | 0.7 |

a/ Data subject to annual Benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.
b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

# Job Growth

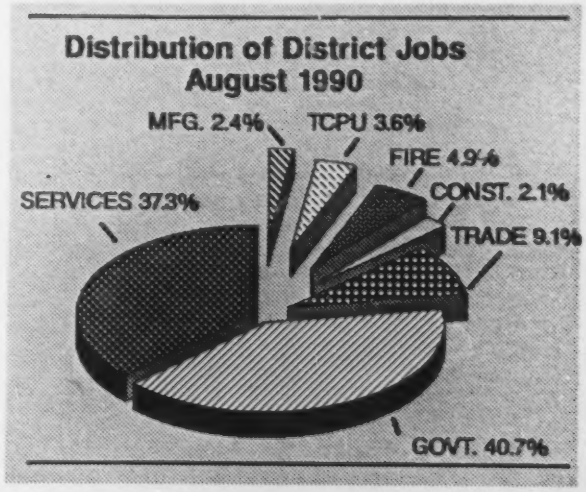
## *The District*

The number of jobs in the District decreased by 15,500 for a loss of 2.2 percent between July and August. The public sector was primarily responsible for the loss with a decline in State and Local Government (12,100 jobs). The substantial decrease in State and Local Government employment reflects the early completion of the District's Summer Youth Employment Program. Federal Government declined by 1,300 jobs as a result of the winding down of 1990 Census activities and normal seasonal losses.

The private sector decreased by 2,100 with primarily seasonal losses in Services (1,300 jobs) and Retail Trade (800 jobs).

Over the year (August 1989 to August 1990), the number of District jobs declined 1.0 percent for a loss of 7,000 jobs. **The private sector grew at a rate of 0.3 percent, generating 1,300 jobs.** Communications and Public Utilities accounted for the growth with a gain of 2,600 jobs due entirely to an unusually low employment level

Continued on page 6



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last year as a result of a strike occurring in the industry.

The public sector declined at a rate of 2.9 percent with a substantial loss in State and Local Government (8,900 jobs) partially offset by a gain in Federal Government (600 jobs). The sizable decline in State and Local Government is directly related to the shorter duration this year of the District's Summer Youth Employment Program.

# The Suburbs

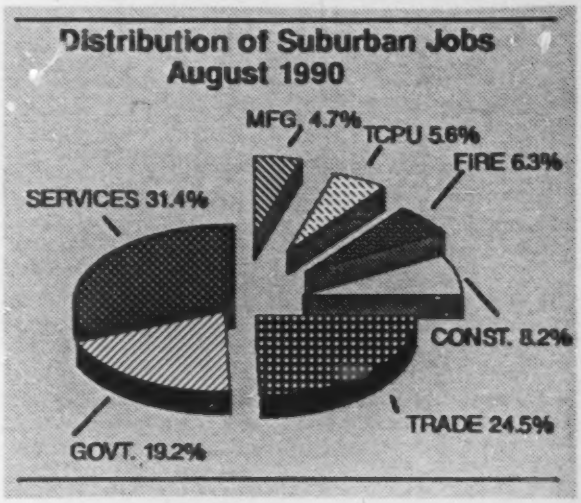
The number of suburban jobs decreased 0.5 percent for a loss of 7,400 jobs between July and August. The public sector was primarily responsible for the loss with a seasonal decline in State and Local Government (3,500 jobs) and a Census related loss in Federal Government (1,500 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for 69 percent of the decline in State and Local Government and 80 percent of the loss in Federal Government.

The private sector declined by 2,400 jobs with losses in Services (800 jobs) and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (500 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for a majority of the loss in Services while the Maryland suburbs were primarily responsible for the loss in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate.

Over the year (August 1989 to August 1990), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 0.5 percent for a gain of 8,300 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 1.1 percent accounting for 98 percent of suburban growth while the Virginia suburbs increased at a rate of 0.1 percent.**

The public sector accounted for 94 percent of all new suburban jobs with a gain in State and Local Government (8,500 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (700 jobs) resulting in growth over the year of 2.7 percent. Fifty-four percent of the growth in government occurred in the Virginia suburbs.

**The private sector accounted for less than one percent of all new suburban jobs with growth in the service-producing sector (12,400 jobs) virtually offset by a decline in the goods-producing sector (11,900 jobs).** The primary job gainers were Trade (6,300 jobs) and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (3,500 jobs) while job losses were primarily concentrated in Construction (11,300 jobs). Three-fourths of the growth as well as 95 percent of the decline in these industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Maryland suburbs were responsible for 55 percent of the growth in Services (3,300 jobs).




# The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area lost 22,900 jobs between July and August for a decrease of 1.0 percent. The public sector was responsible for 80 percent of the loss with census related declines in Federal Government (2,800 jobs) and a loss in State and Local Government (15,600 jobs) related to the early completion of the District's Summer Youth Employment Program.

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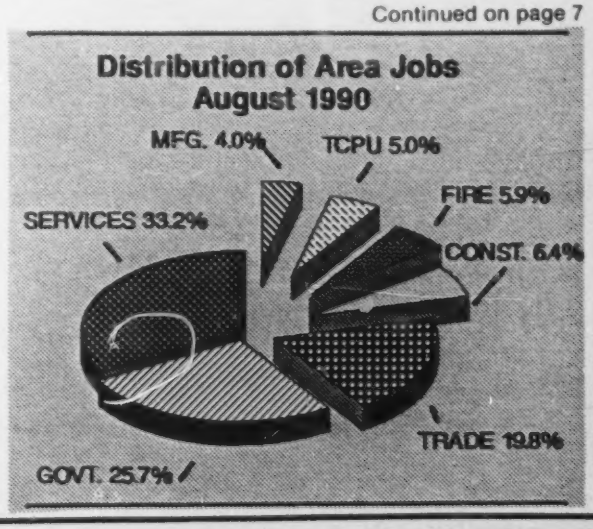

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The private sector declined by 0.3 percent with primarily seasonal losses in Services (2,100 jobs) and declines in Trade (800 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (700 jobs).

Over the year (August 1989 to August 1990), the Area grew at a rate of 0.1 percent for a gain of 1,300 jobs. The private sector also grew at a rate of 0.1 percent, generating 1,800 jobs and accounting for all of the new area jobs. The leading job contributors were Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (6,100 jobs), Trade (5,500 jobs) and Services (3,500 jobs). Construction, on the other hand, declined by 7.6 percent for a loss of 11,700 jobs.

The public sector decreased at a rate of 0.1 percent for a loss of 500 jobs with declines in both State and Local Government (400 jobs) and Federal Government (100 jobs).

**Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work**[a]
(in thousands)

| | District of Columbia | | | Metropolitan Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INDUSTRY** | Aug.[b] 1990 | July[c] 1990 | Aug.[d] 1989 | Aug.[b] 1990 | July[c] 1990 | Aug.[d] 1989 |
| **TOTAL** | **681.5** | **697.0** | **688.5** | **2,240.6** | **2,263.5** | **2,239.3** |
| **Total Private Sector** | **404.3** | **406.4** | **403.0** | **1,664.4** | **1,668.9** | **1,662.6** |
| **Total Government** | **277.2** | **290.6** | **285.5** | **576.2** | **594.6** | **576.7** |
| **Total Goods Producing** | **30.4** | **30.1** | **30.7** | **232.5** | **232.9** | **244.7** |
| **Manufacturing** | **16.1** | **16.2** | **16.0** | **89.0** | **89.4** | **89.5** |
| Total Durables | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 42.3 | 42.6 | 43.6 |
| Stone, Clay, Glass Products | N/A | N/A | N/A | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.6 |
| Electronic & Electric Equip. | N/A | N/A | N/A | 17.0 | 17.1 | 17.4 |
| All Other Durable | N/A | N/A | N/A | 22.1 | 22.3 | 22.6 |
| Total Non-Durable | 13.6 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 46.7 | 46.8 | 45.9 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| Printing & Publishing | 12.9 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 36.1 | 36.2 | 35.2 |
| All Other Non-Durable | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| **Mining** | **0.1** | **0.1** | **0.1** | **1.1** | **1.1** | **1.1** |
| **Construction** | **14.2** | **13.8** | **14.6** | **142.4** | **142.4** | **154.1** |
| **Total Service Producing** | **651.1** | **666.9** | **657.8** | **2008.1** | **2030.6** | **1994.6** |
| **Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities** | **24.8** | **24.9** | **22.2** | **112.2** | **112.7** | **106.1** |
| All Transportation | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 57.2 | 57.7 | 55.5 |
| Railroads | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Transportation ex. Railroad | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 51.9 | 52.4 | 50.2 |
| Communications & Public Utilities | 15.0 | 15.0 | 12.4 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 50.6 |

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

## Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

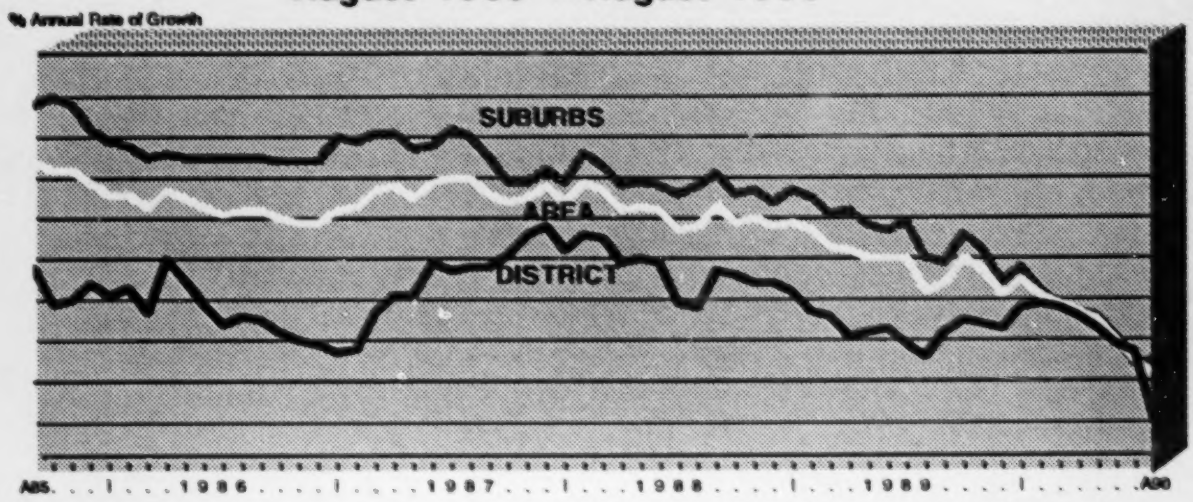
| | District of Columbia | | | Metropolitan Area | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INDUSTRY** | Aug.[b/] 1990 | July[c/] 1990 | Aug.[d/] 1989 | Aug.[b/] 1990 | July[c/] 1990 | Aug.[d/] 1989 |
| **Trade** | **61.8** | **62.6** | **62.6** | **444.1** | **444.9** | **438.6** |
| Wholesale | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 78.3 | 78.0 | 78.7 |
| Retail | 53.6 | 54.4 | 54.2 | 365.8 | 366.9 | 359.9 |
| General Merchandise | N/A | N/A | N/A | 39.6 | 40.4 | 39.3 |
| Food Stores | N/A | N/A | N/A | 53.4 | 53.3 | 50.8 |
| Automotive | N/A | N/A | N/A | 39.1 | 39.1 | 39.3 |
| Apparel & Accessories | N/A | N/A | N/A | 25.9 | 25.8 | 26.9 |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 27.5 | 28.1 | 27.6 | 120.2 | 120.4 | 118.4 |
| All Other Retail | 26.1 | 26.3 | 26.6 | 87.6 | 87.9 | 85.2 |
| **Finance, Insurance & Real Estate** | **33.3** | **33.5** | **33.7** | **131.8** | **132.5** | **132.9** |
| Finance | 16.0 | 16.0 | 16.1 | 61.2 | 61.7 | 61.3 |
| Depository Institutions | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.1 | 39.9 | 40.4 | 39.7 |
| Other Finance | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.6 |
| Insurance | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 26.9 | 26.8 | 27.1 |
| Real Estate | 9.9 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 43.7 | 44.0 | 44.5 |
| **Services** | **254.0** | **255.3** | **253.8** | **743.8** | **745.9** | **740.3** |
| Hotels & Other Lodging Places | 16.3 | 16.9 | 15.8 | 36.8 | 37.5 | 36.0 |
| Personal Services | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 22.7 | 22.7 | 22.5 |
| Business Services | 39.1 | 38.7 | 41.1 | 182.1 | 181.3 | 182.2 |
| Services to Buildings | 14.6 | 14.4 | 15.7 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Personnel Supply | 8.2 | 8.1 | 9.6 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Computer & Data Process | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Business Services | 10.1 | 10.0 | 9.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Health Services | 36.9 | 36.8 | 36.9 | 114.3 | 114.1 | 112.1 |
| Legal Services | 30.6 | 31.1 | 29.6 | 41.8 | 42.4 | 40.4 |
| Educational Services | 28.7 | 28.6 | 28.4 | 41.0 | 40.8 | 40.8 |
| Social Services | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.1 | 34.1 | 34.0 | 33.2 |
| Membership Organizations | 33.7 | 33.9 | 32.8 | 60.2 | 60.8 | 59.1 |
| Engineering/Management Ser. | 43.7 | 43.9 | 43.9 | 144.4 | 145.4 | 147.7 |
| All Other Services | 9.6 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 66.4 | 66.9 | 66.3 |
| **Government** | **277.2** | **290.6** | **285.5** | **576.2** | **594.6** | **576.7** |
| Federal Government | 223.1 | 224.4 | 222.5 | 369.6 | 372.4 | 369.7 |
| State & Local Government | 54.1 | 66.2 | 63.0 | 206.6 | 222.2 | 207.0 |
| State Government | 49.3 | 61.4 | 58.2 | 74.2 | 86.8 | 82.0 |
| Local Government | N/A | N/A | N/A | 132.4 | 135.4 | 125.0 |
| Public Transportation | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

a/ Data subject to annual Benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth**
**August 1985 - August 1990**




# *Area Job Growth Rates*

Over the past five years (August 1985 to August 1990), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 3.8 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.4 percent in September 1985. **Between August 1989 and August 1990, the Area's job growth slowed to just one-tenth of a percentage point. The over-the-year rate for this past August was down substantially from the 2.2 percent recorded in August of last year.** In fact, this August's rate is the smallest over-the-year growth in all of the 60 months in the local job growth series.

During August, suburban over-the-year growth also measured a very modest five-tenths of a percent, down significantly from the 3.0 percent registered in August 1989. Job growth in the District actually declined one percent over the year, compared to growth of 0.6 percent recorded in August of last year. This August's estimate reflects a shortened Summer Youth Employment Program operated by the District Government this summer. In August 1989, youth employed in the program were counted in the monthly total. This was not the case this August.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 86,900 new jobs produced between August 1984 and August 1985, to just 1,300 between August 1989 and August 1990. Over the past year, 8,300 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy, while the District lost 7,000 jobs. **The Washington Area is now creating new jobs at an even slower pace than the sluggish U.S. economy (0.1 percent vs. 1.8 percent for the U.S. economy).** This is the seventh consecutive month that the local job growth rate has been below the U.S. rate.

NOTE: It should be recognized that the monthly estimates of jobs are subject to annual benchmark revisions. These revisions can be plus or minus one percent or more, a range well within the current measurements of change.

**Profile of Job Growth Rates**
**August 1985 to August 1990**

| | |
|---|---|
| **The Area** | |
| Average 60 months | 3.8% |
| High, September 1985 | 5.4% |
| Low, August 1990 | 0.1% |
| 1-year ago | 2.2% |
| Current month | 0.1% |
| **The Suburbs** | |
| Average 60 months | 4.6% |
| High, October 1985 | 7.0% |
| Low, July 1990 | 0.4% |
| 1-year ago | 3.0% |
| Current month | 0.5% |
| **The District** | |
| Average 60 months | 2.0% |
| High, December 1987 | 3.8% |
| Low, August 1990 | -1.0% |
| 1-year ago | 0.6% |
| Current month | -1.0% |

NOTE: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1988-1989.

**PAY PROFILE:**

# The Average Annual Pay in the Washington Area in 1989

On average, persons working in the Washington Metropolitan Area were paid $28,103, during 1989. For people working in the District proper, the annual pay averaged $32,101.[1] Thus, people working in the District made $3,998 more than the average for the whole Area, a 14 percent differential. The 6.1 percent increase in the District during 1989 moved the District for the first time above the average paid in the New York Metropolitan Area.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics,[2] average pay in 319 metropolitan areas across the nation was $23,573 in 1989, or 19.2 percent less than in the Washington Area. Only in metropolitan New York ($31,621) and San Francisco ($28,644) were the average pay higher than the Washington Area. Regionally, average pay in Philadelphia was $24,914, Baltimore $23,109, Richmond $22,351 and Norfolk $19,441. Therefore, Washington Area workers were paid about 11 percent more than in Philadelphia, nearly 18 percent more than in Baltimore, 21 percent more than in Richmond and nearly 31 percent more than in Norfolk. The average for all workers in the United States was $22,567, or nearly 25 percent less than the average in the Washington Area.

Of the selected areas, only Richmond (5.0 percent) had a higher percentage increase in average pay than in the Washington Area (4.9 percent). The average percentage increase for all American workers during 1989 and for all metro-

Continued on page 11

[1]For a detail pay by industry in the District, see the September 1990 edition of the *Area Labor Summary*.

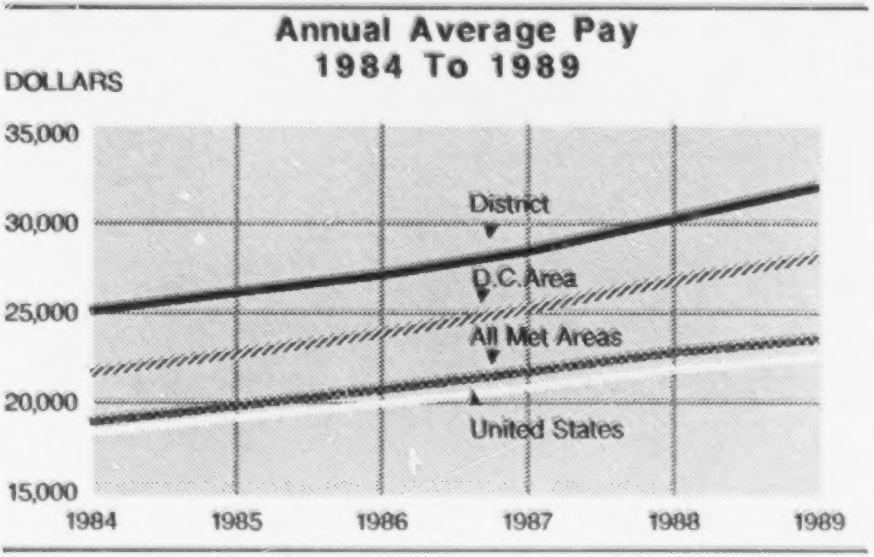
[2]Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Average Annual Pay Levels in Metropolitan Areas, 1989*, News Release, September 21, 1990.

NOTE: Annual pay is compiled from reports submitted by employers under unemployment insurance programs for 107 million full-time and part-time workers across the nation. Annual pay is computed by dividing total annual reported payrolls by the reported average monthly employment.

Continued from page 10

politan areas workers was 3.2 percent each. The smallest percentage increase (1.5 percent) occurred in New Orleans.

Over the past five years, the average pay of workers in the Washington Area increased by 29.6 percent, giving Area workers a slight three-tenths of a percent increase over District based workers. The Area increase was, however, one full percentage point higher than workers in all metropolitan areas and 1.3 percentage point more than the average American worker.




**Annual Average Pay**
**1984-1989**
(in dollars)

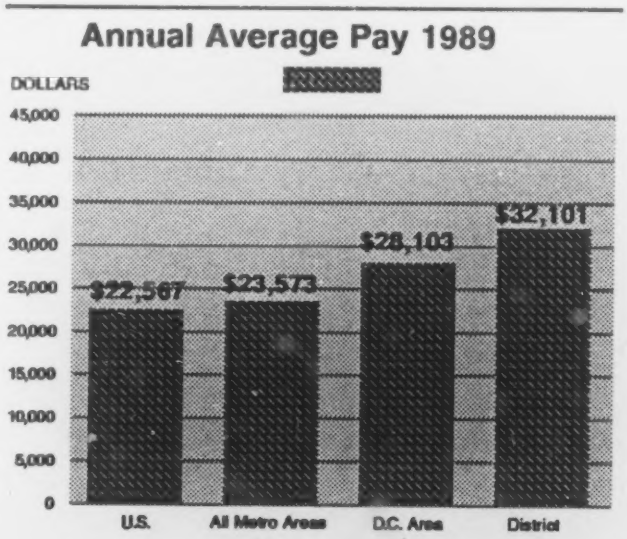
| | U.S. | All Metro Areas | D.C. Area | District |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1984 | 18,353 | 18,934 | 21,692 | 25,121 |
| 1985 | 19,189 | 19,851 | 22,727 | 26,160 |
| 1986 | 19,966 | 20,762 | 23,859 | 27,137 |
| 1987 | 20,857 | 21,722 | 25,210 | 28,477 |
| 1988 | 21,872 | 22,831 | 26,784 | 30,253 |
| 1989* | 22,567 | 23,573 | 28,103 | 32,101 |
| Change | 4,214 | 4,639 | 6,411 | 6,980 |
| % Change | 23.0 | 24.5 | 29.6 | 27.8 |
| Annual Change | 4.6 | 4.9 | 5.9 | 5.6 |

*Preliminary
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Annual Average Pay
## Selected Metropolitan Areas & The District
## 1988-1989
(in dollars)

| Area | 1988 | 1989* | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| THE DISTRICT | 30,253 | 32,101 | 6.1 |
| New York, NY | 30,578 | 31,621 | 3.4 |
| San Francisco, CA | 27,859 | 28,644 | 2.8 |
| WASHINGTON, DC | 26,784 | 28,103 | 4.9 |
| Detroit, MI | 26,602 | 27,315 | 2.7 |
| Boston, MA | 25,731 | 26,915 | 4.6 |
| Los Angeles, CA | 26,019 | 26,716 | 2.7 |
| Chicago, IL | 25,691 | 26,341 | 2.5 |
| Dallas, TX | 24,463 | 25,240 | 3.2 |
| Houston, TX | 24,410 | 25,222 | 3.3 |
| Philadelphia, PA | 23,895 | 24,914 | 4.3 |
| Minneapolis, MN | 23,618 | 24,372 | 3.2 |
| Seattle, WA | 23,436 | 24,361 | 3.9 |
| Atlanta, GA | 23,445 | 24,072 | 2.7 |
| Cleveland, OH | 23,051 | 23,718 | 2.9 |
| ALL METRO AREAS | 22,831 | 23,573 | 3.2 |
| Baltimore, MD | 22,261 | 23,109 | 3.8 |
| San Diego, CA | 22,183 | 22,956 | 3.5 |
| UNITED STATES | 21,872 | 22,567 | 3.2 |
| Pittsburgh, PA | 21,945 | 22,530 | 2.7 |
| Richmond, VA | 21,293 | 22,351 | 5.0 |
| Milwaukee, WI | 21,800 | 22,322 | 2.4 |
| New Orleans, LA | 20,389 | 20,695 | 1.5 |
| Norfolk, VA | 18,982 | 19,441 | 2.4 |

*Preliminary
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics



# Unemployment Rates

## *Metropolitan Area*

In July 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 269 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's jobless rate was 3.2 percent in July down from 3.3 percent recorded in June. As in June, this was the eighteenth lowest jobless rate of the 269 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.6 percent.

**Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 3.2 percent was the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas.**

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a July jobless rate of 5.0 percent, up from the 4.3 percent recorded in June. This is the second consecutive month that the Baltimore rate has increased 0.7 percent. The rate had been on the downturn over the last year. Until last month, it had one of the three lowest rates of the major metropolitan areas. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 3.9 percent.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted a July jobless rate of 3.4 percent down 0.7 percentage point from the 4.1 percent recorded in June. A year ago, the rate was 3.2 percent.

In addition, to the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, jobless rates between 3.3 percent and 3.9 percent were reported in 4 other selected metropolitan areas, Milwaukee (3.4 percent), Seattle and Nashville (both 3.7 percent) and San Francisco 3.9 percent.

There were 19 large metropolitan areas with rates between 4.0 and 4.9 percent. There were 12 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent, and 6 large metropolitan areas with rates of 6.0 percent and above. Detroit had the largest rate at 8.2 percent.

Of the 269 metropolitan areas for which July data are available, 46 had over-the-year decreases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate, while 30 had increases of that magnitude. A total of 52 areas had July 1990 rates below 4 percent, and 46 had rates of 7 percent or higher.

**Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas**

| MSA | JULY 1990* | JULY 1989 |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Washington, D.C.** | **3.2** | **2.6** |
| 2. Richmond-Petersburg, VA | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| 3. Milwaukee, WI | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| 4. Seattle, WA | 3.7 | 4.8 |
| 5. Nashville, TN | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| 6. San Francisco, CA | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| 7. Cincinnati, OH | 4.0 | 4.2 |
| 8. Louisville, KY | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| 9. Pittsburgh, PA | 4.1 | 4.6 |
| 10. Columbus, OH | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| 11. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN | 4.3 | 3.7 |
| 12. Salt Lake City, UT | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| 13. Cleveland, OH | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| 14. Memphis, TN | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| 15. Oklahoma City, OK | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| 16. Kansas City, MO | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| 17. Oakland, CA | 4.6 | 5.0 |
| 18. Denver, CO | 4.6 | 4.8 |
| 19. Dayton, OH | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| 20. Indianapolis, IN | 4.7 | 3.4 |
| 21. Portland, OR | 4.7 | 4.5 |
| 22. Buffalo, NY | 4.7 | 5.7 |
| 23. Philadelphia, PA | 4.7 | 4.1 |
| 24. Phoenix, AR | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| 25. Sacramento, CA | 4.9 | 5.4 |
| 26. Baltimore, MD | 5.0 | 3.9 |
| 27. San Diego, CA | 5.0 | 4.7 |
| 28. Atlanta, GA | 5.1 | 4.8 |
| 29. Dallas, TX | 5.3 | 5.9 |
| 30. Gary, IN | 5.3 | 3.8 |
| 31. Los Angeles, CA | 5.4 | 5.6 |
| 32. Houston, TX | 5.5 | 6.4 |
| 33. Boston, MA | 5.6 | 4.0 |
| 34. Jackson, MS | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| 35. Newark, NJ | 5.7 | 4.8 |
| 36. Birmingham, AL | 5.7 | 6.0 |
| 37. New Orleans, LA | 5.8 | 7.8 |
| 38. St. Louis, MO | 6.1 | 5.2 |
| 39. Chicago, IL | 6.1 | 5.0 |
| 40. Montgomery, AL | 6.4 | 6.9 |
| 41. New York, NY | 6.5 | 5.0 |
| 42. Miami, FL | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| 43. Detroit, MI | 8.2 | 7.6 |

*Preliminary unemployment rates

# States

When the District of Columbia (with a July preliminary unemployment rate of 6.9 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the seventh highest jobless rate in the Country. This was one notch below June's standing. Virginia's rate at 3.8 percent was down from the 4.2 percent reported in June. Maryland's rate was up 0.5 percentage point from 4.0 percent to 4.5 percent. Virginia and Maryland have two of the fifteen lowest jobless rates among the 51 jurisdictions. This month, Virginia and Maryland ranked thirty-seventh and forty-seventh, respectively, in the standings. A year ago, Virginia's rate was 3.3 percent, while Maryland's was 3.6 percent.

Of the 29 states and the District of Columbia reporting rising unemployment, 8 reported over-the-year increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more. The largest increases were in three New England states—Rhode Island (3.1 points), New Hampshire (2.1 points) and Massachusetts (1.9 points). Three states reported over-the-year decreases of 1 percentage point or more; the largest decreases occurred in Wyoming (2.7 points), Louisiana (2.4 points) and Washington (1.2 points).

Nine states had July unemployment rates below 4 percent. Nebraska (2.2 percent) and Hawaii (2.8 percent) had the lowest rates. In contrast six states had unemployment rates over 7 percent. The highest rates were in Mississippi (8.0 percent) and Michigan (7.7 percent).

# Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a July preliminary rate of 6.9 percent) had the thirteenth highest jobless rate. This was three notches below the position held last month. The average unemployment rate of the 26 cities edged up from 6.5 percent in June to 7.0 percent in July. A year ago, the rate was 6.4 percent.

Seven cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Pittsburgh and Columbus (both 4.0 percent) and Salt Lake City (4.3 percent).

Baltimore's rate at 7.5 percent was up 0.8 percentage point from June. Baltimore held the seventeenth position among the 26 selected cities. A year ago, Baltimore's rate was 6.0 percent.

The City of Boston is experiencing rising rates of joblessness, as are all of the large cities in New England. In July, the rate was 6.2 percent up from 5.5 percent in June. A year ago, the Boston rate was 4.7 percent, up a full 1.5 percentage point over the year.

The central cities of Gary and Detroit are still in the double digit column as they have been practically all year. In May, their rates were 10.9 percent and 10.1 percent, respectively. In June, their rates were 10.1 and 10.8 percent, respectively, almost a reverse. In July, their rates were 10.1 and 10.8 percent, respectively. A year ago, Detroit's rate was 12.0 percent and Gary's rate was 6.8 percent.

In July, of the 26 selected central cities, thirteen cities reported decreases in joblessness and twelve cities reported increases in joblessness over the year. The largest decreases were reported by New Orleans (2.5 points) and Detroit (1.4 points). The largest increases in joblessness were recorded by Gary (3.3 points), New York (1.9 percent) and the District of Columbia (1.7 percent). Los Angeles' rate was unchanged over the year at 6.0 percent.

**Hire More Workers,**

**Pay Less Taxes!**

**TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (TJTC)**

**(Call 639-1661)**

## Unemployment Rates by State, July 1990

### Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

| | JULY | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 1989 |
| 1. Pittsburgh, PA | 4.0 | 4.6 |
| 2. Columbus, OH | 4.0 | 4.4 |
| 3. Salt Lake City, UT | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| 4. San Francisco, CA | 4.7 | 5.0 |
| 5. Cincinnati, OH | 5.1 | 5.4 |
| 6. Los Angeles, CA | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| 7. Houston, TX | 6.0 | 6.9 |
| 8. New Orleans, LA | 6.1 | 8.6 |
| 9. Boston, MA | 6.2 | 4.7 |
| 10. Dallas, TX | 6.2 | 6.9 |
| 11. Philadelphia, PA | 6.3 | 5.3 |
| 12. Buffalo, NY | 6.7 | 8.0 |
| **13. District of Columbia** | **6.9** | **5.2** |
| 14. Cleveland, OH | 6.9 | 6.7 |
| 15. Dayton, OH | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| 16. New York, NY | 7.2 | 5.3 |
| 17. Baltimore, MD | 7.5 | 6.0 |
| 18. Atlanta, GA | 7.5 | 7.0 |
| 19. Chicago, IL | 8.0 | 6.7 |
| 20. Milwaukee, WI | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| 21. Birmingham, AL | 8.2 | 8.6 |
| 22. St. Louis, MO | 8.4 | 7.8 |
| 23. Miami, FL | 8.9 | 8.6 |
| 24. Newark, NJ | 9.8 | 8.9 |
| 25. Gary, IN | 10.1 | 6.8 |
| 26. Detroit, MI | 10.8 | 12.0 |

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

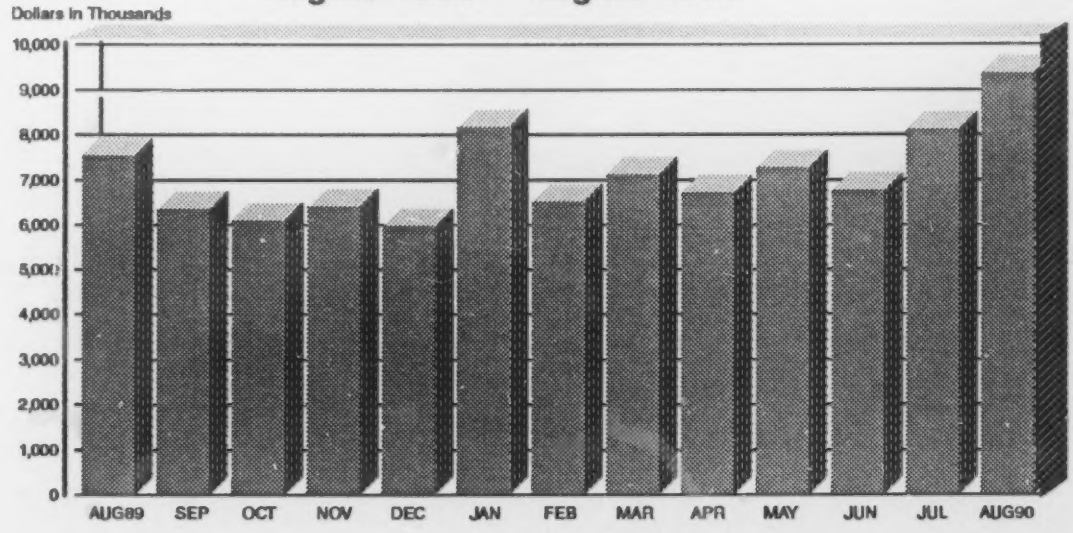
# Unemployment Insurance Activities August 1990

August 1990 claims for unemployment compensation benefits in the District of Columbia totalled 3,680—6 percent below last month, and 26 percent above August of last year. The drop from July was expected, as this July was (and usually is each year) seasonally high. This seasonally high point is because of the filing surge associated with the quarterly change-of-base period for determining monetary eligibility. The phenomenon (an unusual drop) usually occurs in initial claims from the first to the second month in each quarter. This year, however, the drop was not unusual, since in past years it has averaged above 19 percent. August this year was 26 percent above last year. It reflects filings associated with recent layoffs in the retail, banking, and health care industries. This factor helped to bring the August level near the normally "seasonal" high in July. The most pronounced downward change this year between the first and second months of the quarter was in the first quarter. The second quarter change was upward —probably seasonal in nature associated with filings from employees in school cafeterias. Claims increased 13 percent between the first and second month in the second quarter.

The number of idle weeks compensated came to 43,850 in August, and represented a 12 percent increase from last month and was 16 percent above last year. The compensated workload in August was the peak for this year to date. The $9.4 million gross outlay for benefits in August was also peak for the year to date.

The average weekly benefit amount has risen steadily this year—from $201 in January to $213 in August. The comparable rise last year was from $189 to $199. The outlay for compensation from January-August 1990 was $60.1 million, against $55.0 million for the same period last year. Weeks compensated through August 1990 totalled 292,350 compared to 279,600 in 1989 (a 5 percent rise). The higher average weekly benefit amount combined with the increase in compensated weeks accounted for the rise in total outlay this year.

**Total Unemployment Benefits Paid**
**District of Columbia**
**August 1989 - August 1990**



## Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
## (Regular Programs)
## District of Columbia
## August 1990

| | Aug. 1990 | July 1990 | Aug. 1989 | % Change From July 1990 | % Change From Aug. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **State UI Program**[a] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 3,544 | 3,734 | 2,794 | -5.1 | +26.8 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 39,094 | 38,302 | 36,340 | +2.1 | +7.6 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 41,538 | 37,159 | 34,614 | +11.8 | +20.0 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $8,829,583 | $7,667,690 | $6,790,980 | +15.2 | +30.0 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $212.57 | $206.35 | $196.19 | +6.2 | +8.3 |
| Number of First Payments | 2,664 | 2,366 | 1,832 | +12.6 | +45.4 |
| Number of Final Payments | 980 | 1,038 | 628 | +5.5 | -4.7 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 10,878 | 9,969 | 9,057 | +9.1 | +20.1 |
| **Federal Program**[b] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 95 | 117 | 93 | -18.8 | +2.2 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 1,833 | 1,725 | 2,468 | +6.3 | -25.7 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 2,055 | 1,750 | 2,878 | +17.4 | -28.6 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $478,347 | $404,011 | $680,886 | +18.4 | -29.7 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $232.77 | $230.86 | $236.58 | +0.8 | -1.6 |
| Number of First Payments | 138 | 106 | 135 | +30.2 | +2.2 |
| Number of Final Payments | 60 | 44 | 87 | +36.4 | -31.0 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 525 | 450 | 725 | +16.7 | -27.6 |
| **Ex-Servicepersons Program**[c] | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 38 | 43 | 34 | -11.6 | +11.8 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 323 | 346 | 328 | -6.6 | -1.5 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compesated | 254 | 282 | 282 | -9.9 | -9.9 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $51,943 | $56,735 | $58,959 | -8.4 | -11.9 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $204.50 | $201.19 | $209.07 | +1.6 | -2.2 |
| Number of First Payments | 33 | 21 | 32 | +57.1 | +3.1 |
| Number of Final Payments | 10 | 22 | 118 | -54.5 | -44.4 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 79 | 82 | 86 | -3.7 | -8.1 |
| **Total—All Programs** | | | | | |
| Initial Claims Taken | 3,677 | 3,894 | 2,921 | -5.6 | +25.9 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Claimed | 41,250 | 40,373 | 39,136 | +2.2 | +5.4 |
| Weeks of Unemployment Compensated | 43,847 | 39,191 | 37,774 | +11.9 | +16.1 |
| Total Benefits Paid | $9,359,873 | $8,128,436 | $7,530,825 | +15.1 | +24.3 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | $213.47 | $207.41 | $199.37 | +2.9 | +7.1 |
| Number of First Payments | 2,835 | 2,493 | 1,999 | +13.7 | +41.8 |
| Number of Final Payments | 1,050 | 1,104 | 1,133 | -4.9 | -7.3 |
| Total Beneficiaries | 11,482 | 10,501 | 9,868 | +9.3 | +16.4 |

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

# Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for August 1990 dropped $1.43. Average Weekly Hours decreased .3 hour, as Average Hourly Earnings were up 6 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products' had a decrease in Weekly Earnings of $39.59 and a decrease in Weekly Hours of 1.7 hours. The Hourly Earnings dropped 45 cents, all due to less overtime being worked. Electric Machinery, Equipment and Supplies, on the other hand, had an across-the-board increase due to more overtime being worked. Weekly Earnings, Weekly Hours and Hourly Earnings increased $11.17, .2 hour and 21 cents, respectively.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products' shows Weekly Earnings and Hourly Earnings rose $15.01 and 91 cents, respectively, because of overtime. However, the Weekly Hours show a drop of 2.2 hours due to employees being on paid vacation or other paid leave.

**Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing**
**Washington Metropolitan Area**
**August 1990**

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aug. 1990 | July 1990 | Aug. 1989 | Aug. 1990 | July 1990 | Aug. 1989 | Aug. 1990 | July 1990 | Aug. 1989 |
| **Total Manufacturing** | 494.22 | 495.65 | 468.06 | 39.1 | 39.4 | 39.3 | 12.64 | 12.58 | 11.91 |
| **Durable Goods** | 523.67 | 526.11 | 499.10 | 42.3 | 42.6 | 43.1 | 12.38 | 12.35 | 11.58 |
| Stone Clay & Glass Products | 492.59 | 532.18 | 537.53 | 43.4 | 45.1 | 46.1 | 11.35 | 11.80 | 11.66 |
| Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies | 495.01 | 483.84 | 447.63 | 42.2 | 42.0 | 43.0 | 11.73 | 11.52 | 10.41 |
| Other Durable Goods | 538.46 | 538.90 | 505.83 | 42.1 | 42.3 | 42.4 | 12.79 | 12.74 | 11.93 |
| **Non-Durable Goods** | 471.04 | 472.49 | 443.95 | 36.6 | 37.0 | 36.3 | 12.87 | 12.77 | 12.23 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 461.32 | 446.31 | 432.22 | 41.3 | 43.5 | 41.4 | 11.17 | 10.26 | 10.44 |
| Printing & Publishing | 489.24 | 492.44 | 464.09 | 34.6 | 34.9 | 34.2 | 14.14 | 14.11 | 13.57 |
| Other Non-Durable Goods | 401.10 | 403.97 | 376.07 | 42.4 | 42.3 | 41.1 | 9.46 | 9.55 | 9.15 |

| Total Production Workers | Aug. 1990 | July 1990 | Aug. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 41,800 | 41,800 | 41,500 |

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**Government of the**
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